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title: Issue regarding the denial of diplomatic passport of a Kerala Minister for Saudi Arabia.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. I want to raise a very important issue, which has caused a lot of controversy in the State of Kerala. A Minister of the State Government of Kerala was planning to leave for Saudi Arabia on Friday to coordinate efforts to provide aid and assistance to hundreds of Keralites. There are thousands of Keralites and citizens of other States in that country, who are facing a lot of problems because of lack of food and shelter due to job crisis. The hon. External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has assured all possible assistance in this regard. I really appreciate her stand.

The problem is that the Kerala Minister said that he has been denied diplomatic passport for going to Saudi Arabia. I would like to know as to whether the Government has taken any such decision. The Minister also told that there might be some political motive for stopping him from going to Saudi Arabia. This is what I could know from his statement. I would like to seek a clarification from the Government in this regard. We all are putting our efforts to support the people who are in crisis in Saudi Arabia. Thank you, Madam.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): The hon. Minister for External Affairs will give her reply on this issue on Monday.